

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-19, 21-24, 26 and 28-35 are pending, with Claims 18, 24, 26 and 28-32 withdrawn from consideration. Claims 17, 21 and 22 are amended, and Claims 33-35 are newly submitted. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action rejected Claims 17, 19 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Legrand (International Publication No. WO 01/98613) in view of Ichinohe (U.S. Patent No. 4,663,901).

It is respectfully requested the rejection of Claims 17, 19 and 21-23 as unpatentable over Legrand in view of Ichinohe be withdrawn.

Claim 17 relates to a method for fabrication of a vehicle drop glass, with a transparent pane, on an extremity of which a support part is to be attached, which cooperates with a drive and/or guide device for heightwise movement of the pane. The method includes orienting and setting the pane in a device, which is a model of an assembly space for the pane, such that the pane lies on at least three predetermined *contact points on a main face of the pane*. The at least three predetermined contact points represent a reference plane that is independent of a curved structure of the pane between the at least three points. Claim 17 further recites fashioning a curable plastic material into a fashioned part that includes a reference face that is aligned in a defined manner in relation to *the at least three predetermined contact points* and that corresponds to a contact face of the support part such that, after the support part is

assembled with the pane, the fashioned part defines a predetermined position of the support part *in relation to the at least three predetermined contact points*.

Turning to the cited references, as illustrated in Figure 3 of Legrand, and as described at page 5, lines 21-33 of Legrand, a glazing rests on candles that are adjustable relative to a frame of a bench. However, the candles of Legrand are not equivalent to the at least three predetermined contact points recited in Claim 17, because Legrand does not disclose or suggest fashioning a curable plastic material into a fashioned part that includes a reference face that is aligned in a defined manner in relation to the candles. Instead, Legrand describes that the candles merely facilitate placement of the glass, and that the adjustable stops 22 to 26 are responsible for maintaining the glass in a precise position during operation of the adjustment to required dimensions. As can be seen in Figures 3 and 4 of Legrand, the stops 22 to 26 are not contact points on a main face of the glazing 1, but are instead members that each supports a part of the periphery of the glazing 1.

Ichinohe fails to cure the deficiencies in Legrand. Ichinohe includes a general description of guiding adhesive into a glass pane holder. For example, Ichinohe describes, at column 3, lines 26-32, the sequence of (1) inserting an anti-flow member 20 into a slot 10, then (2) filling the slot 10 of the holder 3 with unhardened adhesives, and then (3) inserting the glass pane 1 into the slot 10. Ichinohe does not disclose or suggest orienting and setting a pane on at least three predetermined contact points on a main face of the pane, and then fashioning a curable plastic material into a fashioned part that includes a reference face that is aligned in a defined manner in relation to the at least three predetermined contact points, as recited in Claim 17.

Accordingly, even the combined teachings of Legrand and Ichinohe fail to disclose or suggest all the features recited in Claim 17. It is submitted Claim 17 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

New Claim 33 depends from Claim 17 and recites further features that are not disclosed by the cited references, particularly when considered in combination with the features of Claim 17. Claim 33 recites that the orienting and setting the pane in the device includes placing the main face or a peripheral edge of the pane against fixed stops *that are distinct from* the at least three predetermined contact points.

New Claim 34 recites further features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Claim 34 recites a method for fabrication of a vehicle drop glass that includes orienting and setting a pane in a device such that the pane lies on at least three predetermined contact points on a main face of the pane. The at least three predetermined contact points correspond to points of contact of the pane with the vehicle door or bodywork in which a vehicle drop glass that includes the pane is to be mounted. Neither Legrand nor Ichinohe, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest orientating and setting a pane on at least three predetermined contact points that correspond to points of contact of the pane of the vehicle door or bodywork. Accordingly, Claim 34, and Claim 35 depending therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

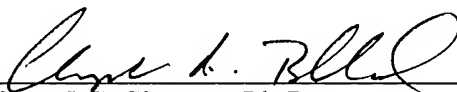
With respect to withdrawn Claims 18 and 24, it is respectfully requested that these claims be rejoined and allowed in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 821.04, as Claims 18 and 24 include the subject matter recited in Claim 17, which is believed to be allowable.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 17-19, 21-24, 26 and 28-35 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary in order to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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